A Modeſt Propoſal

For the more Certain and yet more Eaſie

Proviſion for the Poor.

AND

Likewiſe for the better Suppreſſion of *Thieves*, *Diminiſhers* and *Corrupters of the Coyn*, and other *Lewd Livers*.

Tending much to the Advancement of

TRADE,

Eſpecially in the moſt Profitable part of it,

The Manufactures of the Kingdom.

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THE PREFACE.

IT generally happens, that Projectors are ſo Fond of their own Conceits, that they Overlook all the Weakneſſes of them. I will not therefore preſume, that my Propoſal is without many Exceptions; indeed, hardly any Thing is Perfected at the Firſt Heat; and, perhaps, had I allow'd my ſelf Time, I might have brought This *into a little better Form. But having ſeen the* Votes of the Houſe of Commons *of the* 31ſt *of* January, *which, I believe, were by the Good Providence of GOD put into the Minds of that* Honourable Houſe, *as a* Bleſſing *on the* Religious Faſt *they kept the day before; I made haſte to ſpeak a Word in ſeaſon, ſince Timely Hints*

are

are better than the most Consummate Works that come too late. And if I can but give the least Hint from whence a Good Design *may be formed, for the Compassing the Ends I propose, I have done a* Good Service *to the* Publick; *for which, I hope, all my Faults may be Pardoned.*

A

Modeſt Propoſal, &c.

IT cannot be deny'd, but that We have already many good Laws for the *Relief of the Poor* in their laſt Neceſſities; and likewiſe there are many Bountiful Donations, and a general good Inclination to Charity in the People of this Land (eſpecially when they think their Charity will not be abuſed) whereby a more liberal and plentiful Proviſion for the *Poor* is or might be made. There are alſo good Laws, if well executed, for the Correction of Idle and Riotous Perſons: And, for thoſe whoſe Idleneſs and Riot ha h led them into the high Crimes of *Robbery*, *Burglary*, *Clipping* and *Coyning*, and the like, our Laws have provided the Puniſhment of Death, which being look'd upon as the higheſt Puniſhment, hath been thought the moſt likely to deter Men from theſe Crimes, ſo miſchievous to the *Publick Good* and *Safety*. But yet it muſt be conſeſs'd, that in many places the Poor are not ſufficiently provided for; That the Land is weaken'd and waſted by *Sloth* and *Riot*; and that the number of thoſe high Criminals, ſuch as *Robbers*, *Houſe-breakers*, *Clippers* and *Coiners*, and the like, doth daily rather encreaſe than diminiſh. And indeed, it cannot be otherwiſe, while there

is

an Habit of Idleneſs and Luxury, out of which it is next to impoſſible for them ever to deliver themſelves, tho' you provide never ſo many Puniſhments to terrifie them. The great Defect then, as I conceive, of all the Remedies we have at preſent for theſe Evils lies in this, That there is no effectual courſe taken to keep perſons from getting into an Habit of *Idleneſs* and *Luxury*; or, when they are got into it, to pluck them out of it whether they will or no. To ſpeak more particularly, we are, as I apprehend, wanting in theſe Six things.

1. That perſons that cannot live without Relief have not been provided of ſome Work or other which they might be capable of doing, and alſo forced to do to help ſomething towards their Relief.

2. That Perſons taking Relief have not yet been obliged to live on ſuch cheap Proviſions as they might be well ſuſtained with.

3. That perſons living Idely and Extravagantly have not been ſufficiently enquir'd into, and oblig'd to live within the compaſs of what either their Labour or Eſtate can well maintain.

4. That there hath been no Care taken to maintain on the publick Charge the Children of ſuch perſons who have more than their honeſt Labour and Induſtry can ſupport.

5. That for thoſe perſons whoſe Idleneſs and Luxury hath led them into the aforeſaid Crimes of *Robbery*, *Clipping*, and *Coyning*, and the like, there have not been the moſt proper Puniſhments uſed, either to amend them, or deter others from the ſame Wickedneſs. But,

6. And chiefly, the great Defect has been in that the moſt proper Overſeers, and ſuch as would and could make it their Buſineſs continually to keep the Methods for the Relief of the *Poor* and Puniſhment of the *Wicked*, on foot,

foot, and in perpetual execution, have not been constituted.

I will therefore begin with this last Point: And it is my Opinion, That not only the *Justices of the Peace* (who are oftentimes Men of considerable quality, and large Estates, and, consequently, call'd from their Homes by their Business, and some of them by long attendance upon Parliament) should have the care of this matter; but that also there should be a great number of Magistrates of an Inferiour Rank created for this purpose, who may be termed *Fathers of the Poor*, *Correctors and Amenders of the Wicked*, or by any other Name that Authority thinks convenient. These Inferiour Magistrates I would have chosen out of Men that are worth 1000 *l.* or thereabouts, and they may be chosen by the Inhabitants of the several Parishes, and Approved and Sworn by the Justices at the *Quarter-Sessions*. And of their Qualities and Offices I shall speak anon.

Having thus appointed, as I think, proper *Overseers* and *Executers* of my Methods, I proceed to the Methods themselves: And, first, I propose to have some Convenient and Certain Division made of the Kingdom, each Division to consist of about Two or Three thousand Families or Households; and so the Division that is already of Counties, where the Counties are small, and not populous, may serve where they are larger. And likewise in the Great City of *London* the Division may be accordingly. In every such Division, I propose to have *Two publick Houses* erected, the one to be both an **Hospital** and a **Workhouse**, and the other to be both a **Workhouse** and a **Prison**.

For the *Hospital Workhouse*, I would have it built as cheap as possibly may be, that so there may be the more Relief and Comfort afforded to the *Poor*; which is the

beſt End of all Charitable Works. I propoſe to have it built in this manner, *viz.*

To have one very large Room built pretty high, with only an Earthen Floor, and a Hearth in the midſt of it; and round about this great Room, I would have abundance of little low Rooms, as it were Cabbins opening into the great Room, where I would have all the Winter a conſtant Fire kept, Day and Night, that ſo it might warm into the little Cabbins when their Doors were open, and might be as a Common Fire to all the Poor that lodg'd in them; and might likewiſe ſerve to dreſs their Meat, (there being no need of Roſt, and for boiling in little Crocks, or Pipkins, this Fire will ſerve very well) and likewiſe to warm and dry their Clothes, and all other neceſſary Uſes. This Fire may be made of the Cheapeſt Fuel in the reſpective Countries; and, certainly, One good great Fire can be kept much cheaper than a great many little ones. And, becauſe there may be an Inconvenience in keeping this place too hot and cloſe, I propoſe, That over the little Cabbins there may be Lattice-Windows into this great Room, to be quite opened when it is thought convenient. Without the little Cabbins that are round the great Room, I propoſe, to have ſome Ground, wherein every *Poor Body* may have a little Garden to his or her reſpective Cabbin, and a Door to open outwards to the Garden, as well as one to open inwards to the Common Room. — But, ſome of the Cabbins I would have made opener and airier than the others, that ſo in them Children may lodge; as ſhall be ſhewn.

Now, if to any Diviſion one of theſe great Rooms, with the Cabbins about it, may not be ſufficient to contain the Poor, there may be two, or more, built in the ſame manner near together: But it will always be neceſſary to have one of this ſort of Rooms kept diſtinctly for the Sick.

But

But tho' there ſhould be never ſo many of theſe Rooms together, yet one Common *Bakehouſe*, *Brewhouſe*, and *Waſhhouſe* will ſerve them all, with ſome diverſity of Veſſels, and appointing different Days for different Works, in which the Labour of thoſe Poor that are able, is ſtill to be uſed. For *Brewing*, that may be out of a Common Stock, and every one may have his fit proportion of Beer meaſur'd out. For *Baking*, every one may Bake what he has occaſion for in the Common Oven. I would have a kind of a homely Barn built, where they may work in the dry, thoſe Works that cannot conveniently be done either in their little Cabbins or the common Fire-room.

Laſtly, I would have theſe Houſes to be built in the moſt barren places, except thoſe of the Cities of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, who know beſt where to place them. In all Diviſions that border on the Sea, I would have theſe Houſes built as nigh the Sea as may be, that ſo the Poor may have Employment about the Fiſhery, and may be the cheaper fed by the Plenty of Fiſh.

Having thus contriv'd a Place of *Being* or *Habitation*, we are next to conſider, Who are to be put into it; and then, What they are to do here. And,

Firſt, I would have all Perſons who receive Collection, or who cannot well live without Collection at leaſt, at thoſe times when they can do little or nothing at Home (which is to be judg'd of by the aforeſaid *Fathers of the Poor*) to be ſent to this place.

Secondly, I would have all Sick, Lame, Diſabled, and Bed-rid Perſons to be ſent hither.

Thirdly, I would have all the ſupernumerary Children that are more than their Parents can Maintain by their Honeſt *Labour* and *Induſtry*, to be ſent to this place.

And then, Secondly, For what they are to do in this place.

First, I do ſuppoſe that there are no Perſons ſo Old or Decrepit, but that they may be able to do ſome Work or other which may gain ſomething; and tho' this Gain be never ſo ſmall, yet if it be conſtant, it will help towards their Maintenance, and will alſo be an Eaſe and Comfort to the Poor Body, by amuſing and diverting him from Thinking on his Poverty, or other Miſery; and by ſeeing that he is able to do Something towards the Publick Good. For thoſe that are altogether Helpleſs, ſome of the Poor that are able, may have it for their Work to tend them, and ſome to tend and take care of the Children, eſpecially the ſmalleſt, who may be lodg'd in the wideſt or airieſt Cabbins, One or more, with the Poor Women that are fitteſt to tend them. And ſometimes the Mothers of a great many ſmall Children may be taken into the *Hoſpital* to tend their own and other's Children. But, I ſuppoſe that Children of Five or Six Years old may be capable of ſome Work that may give ſome little Aſſiſtance towards their Maintenance. I do not preſume, That the Work of the Poor ſhould be able to maintain them, but ſo far as it helps towards it, ſo far the Publick Charge is eaſed; and, perhaps, it may go much farther than People do now apprehend, eſpecially in that Frugal way of Living that I propoſe for All in this *Hoſpital-Workhouſe*. For,

1*ſt*, For their *Cloathing*, I propoſe, That every one, in the Winter, have a Waſtcoat, Coat and Breeches for the Men, and a Waſtcoat, Petticoat, and Gown for the Women, the Gown being not open before, but coming down like an Upper Petticoat, and Lac'd before; and all this to be of coarſe white Cloth, that ſo it may be waſh'd when there

there is Occaſion. In the Summer the Men need not have Waſtcoats, nor the Women Under-Petticoats; the Men may have a coarſe Linnen Neckcloth, and the Women a coarſe Handkerchief about their Necks. For the Children, if ſmall, they may be all cloath'd alike in one cloſe Gown lac'd before, of the ſame White Cloth: But, if the Males are big, they may have Breeches of the ſame Cloth, and a Cloſe-bodied Coat or Waſtcoat: There may be added to every one ſome coarſe Linnen to wear next them. Of theſe Habits each Perſon ſhould have two Suits, that the one may be worn while the other is waſh'd and clean'd; and two Suits together worn alternately, will laſt as long as two new Suits given the one after the other. This for their *Clothes*, then for their *Diet*.

It may be remember'd I propos'd a *Garden to every Cabbin*, which may be planted with *Cabbages*, *Carrots*, *Turnips*, *Potatoes*, and the like, by thoſe of the Poor that are able to do it; and a little Salt *Beef* or *Bacon* with the ſaid Roots or Herbs, will go a good way. They may likewiſe have good boyling *Peaſe* provided for them, with *Broth*, *Milk*, *Brown Bread*, and the cheapeſt *Cheeſe*, and the like, at the Diſcretion of the *Fathers*, always contriving to have the *Diet* that is leaſt expenſive, provided it be wholſom.

Having ſaid as much as is neceſſary of the *Hoſpital-Workhouſe*, I proceed now to the *Priſon-Workhouſe*, about which there needs little more *Contrivance*, than to have it built ſtrong enough, and ſo as to keep every Perſon apart hard at Work.

Several ſorts of the *Hardeſt Works*, and moſt *Beneficial*, ſuch as, if a *Man* or *Woman* be kept cloſe to them, they may earn conſiderably more than their Expence, are to be found out for thoſe that are detain'd in the

Pri-

Priſon Workhouſe: And, that they may be able to go through with ſuch Works, they ſhould be fed with courſe, but hearty Fare.

And for their *Clothing*, there is no need of any more, at leaſt, for the great *Malefactors* but juſt to cover their Shame. Theſe *Priſon-Workhouſes* I would have always to be in ſome City or great Town, that being ſevere Priſons, they may be well guarded; and that the frequent Sight of them may deter the more from thoſe Vices that bring Perſons into ſuch Puniſhment. And alſo, that the *Criminals* being not ſuffer'd to wag abroad, may be the eaſier provided both of *Food* and *Work*.

Into theſe *Priſon-Workhouſes* I would have ſent,

I. 1*ſt*, All *Robbers on the Highway*, *Houſebreakers*, *Clippers* and *Coiners*, *Pickpockets*, and the like, there to be kept till by the Overplus of what they gain by their Labour, they have made ample Satisfaction to all whom they have wrong'd; till they have paid for their Taking; and till they have acquir'd ſuch a Habit of Induſtry and Faring hard, that they may be truſted again among *Honeſt People*. And, after all that, the Correctors ought to make them either work there till they have given ſomething to theſe Houſes, that have done them ſo much good, or to take an Obligation of them to do ſo when they have got Something in the World; the forfeiture of which Bond ſhould be to return to thoſe *Priſon-Workhouſes*. And in this Method it is obſervable, that *Clippers* and *Coiners*, who have done the *Nation* ſo much Injury, that they can never make it Reparation, will be kept here in *Hard Slavery* as long as they live: As, indeed, it is fit ſuch *Miſchievous Beaſts* ſhould be ever kept up in Cloſe Durance.

But

But because in *Robbing* and *House-breaking* there often happens *Murder*, and by the Law of God, *He that sheds Man's Blood, by Man shall his Blood be shed*; I would have this Horrible Wickedness punish'd with *Death*. But yet I do not know but it might terrifie some Men, more especially such as are of Atheistical Opinions, or such as through a Habit of *Idleness* and *Luxury* dreaded *Work* and *Hard Fare* more than *Death*; to put them first in this *Prison-Workhouse*, and there using them much harder in all respects than any other *Criminals*, every day Scourging them till the Blood comes, and reproaching them with their Villainous Murder; and in this manner to keep them till by their Labour they have made some sort of *Restitution* for the Damage that happen'd to any one by that Murder, or to the Publick, by the Loss of two Members of the Commonwealth; that is, of the Person murder'd, and of the Murderer, who thereby forfeited his Life. And when he hath paid these Debts, let him also pay the Debt that he oweth the Law of his Blood.

II. 2*dly*, I would have sent into this *Prison Workhouse* all Prostitutes, of one or the other Sex, and all that live upon *Bawdery*.

III. 3*dly*, All *Fraudulent Debtors*, who are as bad, if not worse than *Robbers*. It should be in the Power of *Creditors*, who can prove their Debts, to cast their Debtors that will not pay into this Prison; and there, when the Correctors have examin'd the Case, if they find a Man to be in Debt meerly through *Misfortune*, they shall move the Creditor and others to be Charitable to him, and do what they can to Compound his Debts, and to put him again into a way of Living: And if they cannot do this, they shall order him to be used kindly, allowing some small matter to his Creditor

tor out of his Labour. But if, upon Enquiry, they ſhall find the Debtor contracted thoſe Debts with a purpoſe to cheat his Creditor, then ſuch a Debtor is to be uſed in all reſpects as a *Thief*, he being ſuch a *Thief* as a Man cannot be aware of.

IV. *4thly*, To this place ſhould be ſent all *Wandering Beggars*, all *Petty Chapmen*, *Pedlers*, *Tinkers*, and the like, who may be, and often are, of a very lewd and wicked Life, being under no Bodies Inſpection, nor being to be found to be puniſh'd for their Cheats and Thefts, by reaſon of their Wandering Life, and bearing likewiſe no publick Burdens or Taxes; and ſo are no way beneficial, but very injurious to the Commonweal.

In like manner, after the *Hoſpital-Workhouſes* are ſetled, if any pretend to Travel with Paſſes, among whom there are now many Cheats, they may be clap'd up into theſe *Priſon-Workhouſes*, becauſe that there may be Care taken, that thoſe that have truly need to paſs from one place to another, ſubſiſting upon Charity, may be reliev'd, and ſent from one *Hoſpital-Workhouſe* to another, doing Something for their Living, during their ſtay in each *Hoſpital-Workhouſe*.

V. *5thly*, All *Notoriouſly-Idle* and *Riotous Perſons*, who Spend much beyond their Earning or Income, ſhould be ſent to theſe *Priſon-Workhouſes*, there to be kept to Hard Labour and Hard Diet, till it may be reaſonably hoped they are Cured of that *Idleneſs* and *Extravagance*.

All theſe Perſons are to be us'd better or worſe, with Regard to their *Lodging*, *Clothing*, *Food*, *Correction* or *Time of durance*; according to their different Crimes, and what may tend beſt to their effectual Cure: And ſo much muſt reſt upon the Juſtice and Diſcretion of the *Correctors*, who, as you will ſee by what follows, are to give an Account of what they do.

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Having thus ſpoke of this *Priſon-Workhouſe*, and who are to be put into it, and how they are to be *Fed*, *Cloth'd* and *Handl'd*, there is one thing yet remains, which may be thought ſtrange; that is, I would have all theſe wicked Men and wicked Women, that are in theſe places, married together, if there be enough of each Sex, and they are not married before. But here I except the *Murderers*, of whom I would have no Offspring: For the reſt, let them be brought to Marry one with another; which will be no hard matter. And, that their Matching may be little or no hinderance to the Work either of the Men or of the Women; and alſo, that they may produce ſtrong and healthy Children, I propoſe, That they may accompany together but once in a week, every *Saturday*, about Three of the Clock; the Man and his Wife may ceaſe their Labour, and be brought together, and ſo Sup and Lodge together, and the next day be parted again; where both Men and Women, in ſeveral Diviſions of a Room where they cannot ſee each other, may be brought to hear Divine Service and a Sermon; then being had to their reſpective little working Rooms again, they may lodge by themſelves, and the next Morning early return to their Work.

As for the Women that prove with Child, they may nevertheleſs be held to their Work, tho' in ſome degree abated; and when they are brought to Bed, the Children ſhall be remov'd to the *Hoſpital Workhouſe*, there to be ſuckl'd by ſome poor Women, or brought up by Hand; and the Mothers, as ſoon as they are able, ſhall be forced to return to their hard Labour. But when the Man and the Woman have wrought themſelves out of the *Priſon-Workhouſe*, they ſhall have their Children ſent them, if they are able to keep them.

I am ſenſible it will be objected, That in the Contrivance of both the *Hoſpital* and *Priſon-Workhouſe* I bring a needleſs and mighty Burthen upon the Publick, in loading it with the Charge of ſo many Children. But I think it a Fault in any Conſtitution, not to encourage the encreaſe of Lawful Children, eſpecially when they are like to be train'd up in all Frugality and Induſtry, as theſe will be. And it may be ſo contriv'd, that in a little time this may be no Burthen at all to the Publick; for, the *Fathers of the Poor* may have Power given them to oblige every one that hath been brought up in Infancy in the *Hoſpital-Workhouſe*, after they can get more than is neceſſary for their own Maintenance, to pay to the *Hoſpital-Workhouſe*, the Men as much as will train up two Infants, and the Women as much as will train up one, in like manner as they had been trained up themſelves; and that under pain of being ſent to the *Priſon-Workhouſe*. And then, conſidering how frugally Children will be kept in the *Hoſpital-Workhouſes*, how ſoon they will be able to get their own Living, or Something towards it, and how many Charitable Gifts will be ſent to thoſe places, where People will be ſatisfied 'twill be ſo well employ'd. This training up of a numerous company of Children will be found to be little or no Charge, and yet a mighty Advantage to the Publick. It will alſo prevent a great deal of *Sin*, encourage *Marriage*, and encreaſe a *healthy* and *well-nurtur'd People*.

I come now to ſpeak of the Privileges, Powers, and Duties of the *Fathers of the Poor*, and *Correctors of the Wicked*, who are to be the Overſeers and Executers of theſe Methods, and upon whoſe Diſcretion, Care, and Fidelity all the Succeſs of the Deſign will depend.

And,

And, 1*st*, of their *Privileges*. It is but reasonable that such Persons who are so beneficial to the Publick, should have some Privileges, and therefore I think it fit that they be excus'd from the Burthen of any other Office, from Serving on *Juries*, and the like; and that, as Magistrates of a lower degree, they have Precedence, and their Wives likewise, of all of their Rank and Condition, that at their Election they have presented them at the Publick Charge a Walking-staff with a Silver Head, with the Pictures of *Justice* and *Charity* engrav'd upon it, for a Badge of their Office and Authority.

2*dly*, For their *Powers*. They should, I think, have the Power of perpetual Constables, tho' not obliged to act any of the Constable's Office, but when their Duties hereafter mention'd oblige them. They should also have Power and Authority to enquire and demand of any Person who appears to live Idley and Riotously, and to spend more than he or she can have honestly coming in, how it is that they maintain such Expence: And if they do deny or refuse to give an Account, that then the *Corrector of the Wicked* have Power in himself to send such a Person immediately away to the *Prison-Workhouse*, and that all Persons be aiding and assisting to him in so doing. But if the said Suspected Person shall offer some Account of the Answering of his Income to his Expence, and that Account be not satisfactory, to prevent the Effects of Private *Malice*, the *Corrector* shall have the Person before a *Justice of Peace*, who with the Assistance of another Justice, may examin him; and, if they see cause, may by their Joint-Warrant send him to the *Prison-Workhouse*.

In like manner each *Father of the Poor* ſhall have Power to Examin, how any Poor man ſupports his Family of Children; and if he find that ſuch Poor man hath more than he can ſupport by his honeſt Labour, he ſhall take from him ſo many as he thinks fit, and ſend them, whether the Man and his Wife will or no, to the *Hoſpital-Workhouſe*; and when he ſeeth convenient, ſend the Mother alſo with the Children, where the Father may ſee them every *Sunday*, provided he bring enough to feed them and him for that day.

And in caſe, by reaſon of this Dependance, any Labouring man ſhould turn Idle or Sottiſh, he may be forced to work, by the ſame Remedy that is provided for all other idle Perſons; that is, by being ſent to the *Priſon Workhouſe*, if nothing elſe will reform him; for it is not deſign'd, that any man ſhould be eas'd of any more Burthen than what he cannot by his honeſt Induſtry ſupport.

As to the Apprehenſion of theſe *Houſe-breakers*, *Corrupters of the King's Coyn*, *Pickpockets*, all ſuch as live on *Bawdery*, *Gypſies*, *Walking Beggars*, *Wandring Petty-chapmen*, and the like, this may ſtill be left to the Uſual Conſtables, and by a Juſtice's Warrant they may be ſent to the *Priſon-Workhouſe*, where they will beſt be Corrected; that is, both puniſh'd and made better.

But, becauſe this Duty is too often neglected by the Ordinary Officers, the Correctors may be impower'd firſt to complain to the Juſtices, and, if that will not do, by their own Authority to ſeize the aboveſaid Criminals, and ſend them to the *Priſon-Workhouſe*, where ſuch Criminals ſhall remain, only paying double for their *Diet*, till at a General Court the Truth of their Caſe

Caſe be known, and then ſuitable Diſciplin ſhall be appointed them.

3*dly*, For the *Duties* of theſe *Fathers of the Poor*, and *Correctors of the Wicked*.

Theſe will be very *many* and *great*; and therefore none ſhould be choſen into this Office but Ancient, Grave, Subſtantial, Prudent, and Pious Men; and when they are elected, they ſhould take a Solemn Oath, That they will Faithfully Diſcharge, to the beſt of their Skill, the Great Office they have undertaken, and make it their Study and Endeavour to promote True Juſtice and Charity.

I propoſe, That the Whole Body of theſe *Fathers* and *Correctors* meet the Firſt Day of every Month, unleſs the Firſt Day happen to be *Sunday*, and then they may meet the next Day, which meeting ſhall be call'd their *General Court*: Let them meet in a full Body one Month at the *Hoſpital-Workhouſe*, and the next Month at the *Priſon-Workhouſe*. When they meet at the *Hoſpital-Workhouſe*, they ſhall chuſe out a Committee of Ten, and giving them neceſſary Inſtructions, ſend them to the *Priſon-workhouſe*, who ſhall be term'd *The General Court at the Priſon-workhouſe* for that Month: And ſo, in like manner, when they meet all at the *Priſon-workhouſe*, ſhall they do by the *Hoſpital-workhouſe*.

Now, at the meeting of theſe General Courts, either of the Whole Body, or of the Committee of Ten, which ſhall be always taken as a General Court, there ſhall be a ſhort Sermon or Exhortation on the Subject of *Juſtice* or *Charity*, made by ſome Miniſter of the Diviſion: And let it be obſerv'd, That every Parſon or Vicar in each Diviſion ſhall have Power to come, if he pleaſes, into every General Court of that Diviſion, and may Adviſe,

Act,

Act, and Vote in the ſaid Court, as any other *Father* and *Corrector* may; but ſhall be obliged to no other Office, beſides making his Exhortation in his turn.

As ſoon as the Court is ſate, they ſhall chuſe a *Chairman* and a *Clerk* out of their own body, for that time, that ſo all may underſtand the Methods of proceeding, and to avoid multiplying Officers, who are always a Charge, and often an occaſion of Corruption and Injuſtice.

The firſt thing the Court ſhall proceed in at the *Priſon workhouſe* ſhall be, to call before them all the Perſons that have been ſent thither ſince the laſt Seſſion; and they ſhall hear their reſpective Caſes, and award them Juſt Diſcipline: But, if the Caſe ſeem difficult, and there be only the Committee of Ten ſitting, they may defer the Condemning to Diſcipline till the next Court, when the Whole Body will meet there, keeping the ſuſpected Criminal only upon the Charge of paying double what his Diet coſt, for the benefit of the Houſe, which is no more than Men pay in Inns; And he may be obliged to pay either out of what he hath, or out of his Labour.

The next thing to be conſider'd by the Court is, To contrive the moſt proper and beneficial Works to be done at that time by the Criminals; And, for this reaſon, the Correctors of the Wicked ſhould be choſen, at leaſt a great part of them, out of ſeveral Trades, that they may the better know how to find out and preſcribe ſuch Works.

I think it no Objection to ſay, That perhaps the Criminals will not do the Works as they ſhould be done; ſince *Scourging*, and *Pinching with Hunger* will tame the higheſt Spirit, and make them do even what you pleaſe. And if ſome ſhould dye under the Diſcipline, this, in re-

respect of the high Criminals, who are to be us'd the most severely, is no more than when they had deserv'd by our present Law. But yet, by the Prudence of the Correctors, this may always be avoided.

Before the breaking up of the Court at the *Prison-workhouse*, if the whole Court Sit, there shall be chosen out of the Body Ten Persons to be *Stewards* for the ensuing Month. If only the Committee of Ten Sit, they shall be the Stewards themselves.

The Duty of these Stewards shall be as followeth.

Two of them shall buy in Provisions for the House.

Two shall see the Work brought in and carried out.

Two shall see Due Correction executed.

Two shall Pay the Inferiour Officers, that inflict the Discipline, or carry the Provisions or Work to and fro, and to take an Account of what is laid Out and Earn'd.

The other Two to draw up the whole Account brought them by their Eight Brethren, and to consider it, and make their best Remarks upon it; and present it, with their Remarks, to the next full Court. And, at least, two of these Stewards should lodge in the *Prison-workhouse*, in some convenient Room set aside for that purpose.

The like Course is to be taken for the *Hospital-workhouse*, Ten *Stewards* are to be chosen monthly.

Two to see Provisions collected and brought in.

Two to provide proper Work.

Two to see any Irregularity corrected.

Two to pay Necessary Officers, and make a state of the Receipts and Disbursements.

And

And Two to take an Account of all that hath been done by their Brethren; to make their Remarks, and to give them in to the next full meeting.

And this Burthen will not be great upon any man, becauſe in a Hundred and twenty *Father-Correctors*, which is the leaſt number I propoſe for every Diviſion, it can come to a Man's Turn but twice in a Year.

In *Hoſpital-workhouſes* that are in Inland Counties, the Fathers of the Poor need only breed up the Children to be fit for Servants to Husbandmen, or to be Apprentices to Handicraft-Trades; and to be taught to Read is Learning enough for them: But in *Hoſpital-workhouſes* that are near the Sea, thoſe Boys that are capable, ſhall be inſtructed in all the Art of Navigation; and All ſhall be taught the Skill of Catching and Ordering Fiſh; Boats and Fiſhing-Tackle, and able Perſons to aſſiſt, being provided at the charge of the Houſe.

To every *Hoſpital-workhouſe* there ſhall always belong an eaſie Waggon, with two or three Horſes, to fetch the Sick and Decrepit Poor to the Houſe, or to carry ſuch from *Hoſpital-workhouſe* to *Hoſpital-workhouſe*, in their paſſage home; which will free the Country of a great deal of Charge and Trouble.

In every *Hoſpital-workhouſe* I would have ſome private place appointed, to be viſited at certain times by the Women of the Houſe, to which any young Children may be brought, and none ſhall take notice or enquire who brought them, or from whom they were ſent; but all ſuch Children ſhall be taken in, and brought up by the Houſe. This may prevent many Execrable Murders, and be a Benefit to many poor Infants, who, either through their Parents Shame to make their Caſe known, or Deſpair of Relief, might ſuffer very much

or

or be loſt. It can't be objected, That this will encourage the begetting Unlawful Children; ſince care is taken before, that Lewd Perſons be ſent to the *Priſon-workhouſe*, and there married to thoſe of their own ſtrain; which will prevent ſuch Wickedneſs much more than any Means now us'n. As to the Charge this will bring upon the Publick, that hath been anſwer'd already: And indeed, it is demonſtrable, that the Encreaſe the Publick Stock may have from the Labour of One from ten to twenty five years old, will more than double or treble pay for the Charge ſuch a one ſtood the Publick in, in the time of Infancy: And it is all the Reaſon in the World that ſuch a one ſhould be oblig'd to pay this Debt to the Publick.

For the Inſtruction of poor Children in Religion, the *Fathers of the Poor* ſhall take care that all be taught the *Church-Catechiſm*; and that the Children, as ſoon as they can learn it, ſhall conſtantly ſay the *Lord's Prayer* and *Creed*, riſing and going to Bed; at Noon the *Pſalms* for the Day, and the *Chapters*, ſhall be read by the Children, and the *Letany*, with the *General Thanks*, giving the Prayer of St. *Chryſoſtom*, and the *Bleſſing*, ſhall be read by one of the graveſt men in the Houſe, all making the Reſponſes. At night, ſome ſuch grave Perſon (which if there be none other fit, may be one of the Fathers that is then Steward in the Houſe) ſhall call the Youth, and appoint ſome of them to read the *Pſalms* for the Day, and the *Chapter*, and then he ſhall reverently rehearſe the *Lord's Prayer*, and the *Collect* that follows it in the *Communion Service*, and ſo proceed to the *Ten Commandments*, after every one of which *All* preſent ſhall make that Prayer, to beg Forgiveneſs of God for any Tranſgreſſion againſt that Commandment, and His Grace to enable them to Keep it better for the time to come, ſay-

ing aloud, *Lord, have Mercy*, &c. I adviſe the Commandments at Night, that ſo, by them, every one may examin his Actions of the Day paſt. After the Commandments, I would have the two Prayers in the *Commination* us'd, the firſt of which begins, *O moſt mighty God, and merciful Father*, —— and the ſecond, *Turn thou us, Good Lord*, &c. only leaving out the word *Faſting*. Then ſhall follow the Prayer for Abſolution in the *Commination*; then the Prayer for the whole Church-militant, and one or two of the Collects in the Communion Service; with *The Peace of God*, &c. On *Sundays* all that can ſhall repair to the Pariſh-Church; and for the Sick and Decrepit, the Miniſter of the Pariſh may be deſir'd at convenient times to viſit them.

At the Court held at the *Hoſpital-Workhouſe*, there ſhall be a ſtrict Enquiry made into the ſtate of the Houſe, what hath been earn'd in it, what hath been given to it, what hath and muſt be expended, and what is wanting in the Income to anſwer the Expence. And in my Opinion, they ought always to have a Months Proviſion ready beforehand.

Now, if neither the *Gifts* nor *Earnings* will anſwer the neceſſary Expence, what is wanting is to be levy'd on the whole Diviſion, of Two or Three thouſand Families, by the Court, in as equal a manner as may be.

It is my Opinion, That the Poor ſhould not be kept to exceeding hard Labour, but that within an honeſt Induſtry they may live Comfortably; the Charity of their Brethren ſupplying what That cannot obtain.

Exceeding Hard Labour is to be the Puniſhment of the Other Houſe; but *Poverty*, which is no Fault, ought not to be puniſh'd. In the Levies that are made on the Diviſion, it may be order'd, That Men ſend in their *Quota's* either

either in Money or Proviſions, at a reaſonable value; but the *Fathers of the Poor* are not to be charged therein, becauſe their Care and Attendance on this Charity is ſufficient for their Part, they being neither to have any Stipend, or to make any ſort of Gain by their Office; only the Charge they are at in conveying the Poor, &c. to the Workhouſes, is to be allow'd them. And while they ſtay at the *Hoſpital-workhouſe*, they ſhall only lodge in ſome of the beſt Cabbins, and have the ſame Diet that the moſt-favour'd of the Poor have.

As to the *Priſon-workhouſe*, I do ſuppoſe it will more than maintain it ſelf; it muſt be very negligently look'd after if it doth not; for this is to be a place of Pain and Miſery, there being few, or none, to be long kept here, but what deſerve not to live; and ſurely, if they be kept to the Hardeſt Labour, working almoſt naked, they muſt Earn much more than they Eat.

And indeed, by reaſon of this ſtate of the *Priſon-workhouſe*, I do preſume, there will ever be a good Stock of Money beforehand, out of which I would have lent to Poor Induſtrious People ſmall Sums to follow their little Trades with, but obliging themſelves either to pay the ſame in a little time, or to render themſelves in the *Priſon-workhouſe*, to ſatisfie their Debt by their Labour.

Out of this Stock alſo I would have paid to every one that diſcovers and cauſes to be apprehended any *High-wayman*, *Houſe-breaker*, *Diminiſher of the King's Coin*, or *Pickpocket*, 10 *l.* for one that lives in *Bawdery* 5 *l.* for every Wanderer, whether *Beggar*, *Gypſie*, or *Pedler*, &c. 50 *s.* Which Money ſhall be Reimburſed to the Houſe, out of the Work of the ſaid Criminal.

Laſtly, For the keeping all in due order, I propoſe, That the *Fathers-Correctors*, at every Quarter-Seſſions of the Juſtices of the Peace, preſent a true ſtate of the Houſes to the Juſtices, who may inſpect their Books, and overlook all their Proceedings, and amend what they find amiſs. And from them alſo there may be an Appeal to the Judge of the Aſſize; and, if need be, to the King and Council.

Having now finiſh'd my deſigned Propoſal, I ſhall firſt repreſent ſome Conveniencies of it, which are not mention'd in the Body of the Deſign; and, ſecondly, Anſwer ſome Objections that may be made againſt it, and ſo leave it to take its Fate.

And, *Firſt*, This will be a certain Means of making all Manufactures very cheap among us, when all Hands that are capable of doing any thing are continually employ'd: And how great an Advantage it muſt be to our Foreign Trade, to have our Manufactures cheap, no body can be ignorant.

Secondly, Out of the *Hoſpital-workhouſes*, that is, of the Poor Children that are grown up, and likewiſe out of the *Priſon-workhouſes*, of thoſe that are brought to a Habit of Induſtry and Frugality, our Plantations may be plentifully and well furniſh'd; which will likewiſe tend to the Advantage of the Foreign Trade, and much encreaſe the Riches of the Nation.

Thirdly, Out of both ſorts of Workhouſes the King may be furniſh'd with able Souldiers; and out of the Houſes near the Sea, with good Seamen: But then I think it reaſonable, that when Perſons are taken out either for the Plantations, or for Sea and Land-Service, ſome Compenſation be made to the Houſes; to the *Priſon Workhouſe*, to ſupply what the Perſon taken forth had been condemned to earn; and to the *Hoſpital-Workhouſe*, for the training

ing up more Infants: But, I think, it ought to be obſerved, that none be taken out of the *Priſon-Workhouſe* till they may reaſonably be ſuppos'd to be brought to a Habit of *Frugality* and *Induſtry*, leſt they do them that take them forth more Harm than Good.

Fourthly, Out of the *Hoſpital-workhouſe* any Perſon that wants a good Servant, either for *Husbandry*, for the *Harveſt*, or any other ſort of Work, may be ſupplied with one for his purpoſe, becauſe that he may there have certain information of ſuch Servants Conditions and Qualifications.

Fifthly, In the *Priſon workhouſes* no Unhappy Priſoner will Suffer more than he hath deſerv'd; as poor *Debtors* now often do in Jayls.

Sixthly, Any Perſon that wants Work at any time, may find it in the *Hoſpital-workhouſes*, where the *Fathers of the Poor* are to take care that the Poor never want Work, tho' they Earn never ſo little; which will always be ſome help towards their Maintenance, and Eaſe the charge of Collections.

Seventhly, In the *Hoſpital-workhouſe* the Children of Souldiers and Seamen in the Service of their King and Country, may be provided for; which will be a great Encouragement to their Fathers to behave themſelves Valiantly.

And now to the *Objections*.

The *Firſt* and Main *Objection* will be, *Where will you have Money to build theſe* Workhouſes? To which I Anſwer, Firſt, As to the *Priſon-workhouſes*, they will coſt nothing at all, becauſe the Priſons and Houſes of Correction may be turn'd into them: And whereas the Jayls now coſt the Country Money, theſe *Priſon-workhouſes*, if well look'd after, will *more than maintain* themſelves, and cauſe ſuch as have injur'd the Publick, to make ſome Reparation

paration to it by their Labour; whereas now Rogues live very Idely and Wickedly in Jayls, and when they are hang'd, can do no more good. And it is pity that a Man ſhould be rear'd up to do the Publick no Service, but only Miſchief.

As to the *Hoſpital-Workhouſes*, in the *Plain way* I have propos'd to build them (for certainly Poor People have no need of Palaces) One Years Collection paid beforehand, would certainly do it, and the Collections for the Poor will ever after be abated: Beſides, it may very reaſonably be expected, that there will be *many Bountiful Contributions* to ſo Good and Certain a Piece of Charity; and, perhaps, many of the Charitable Donations that are up and down in the Kingdom, may be better employ'd in this way, for the advantage of the Poor, which was the Deſign of the Donors, than in the Ways they now are.

Secondly, It may be Objected, That *This, as all other Good Deſigns, may in time grow cold, and be neglected.* But againſt this Danger, I think, the chuſing ſuch Overſeers as are neither too High to look after it, nor too Low to have any Intereſt, or however, is a Sufficient Proviſion; for, by this very means, that is, by chuſing a great many *able Citizens* for Governours, the Hoſpitals in *London* are taken better care of than any other *Charitable Works* I know in the Kingdom: And, from them, in part, it was that I took my Model.

Thirdly, It may be Objected, That *This takes the Judging of Criminals out of the hands of the Judges of Aſſize.* That it doth not wholly, becauſe that to them there is always an *Appeal*; and beſides, the Sentencing of any great Offender to the aforeſaid Puniſhments, may, if it be thought beſt, ſtill be reſerv'd to them; and ſo this Method that is propos'd will only alter the Puniſh-

ments

ments for the better. As to the Damage *Keepers* and other Officers may receive hereby, that may be Remedied, by putting them, if they are honeſt, into like Offices in theſe Reformed Priſons.

Laſtly, It may be ſaid, That *it will be difficult to find enow Perſons ſufficiently hard-hearted, to execute Neceſſary Diſciplines upon all Criminals.* To which I anſwer, That great part of this Work may be done by one Criminal upon another, eſpecially where any Criminal complains, That One in the ſame Priſon ſeduced him; he may be put to Execute the Diſcipline upon that his Seducer. And then *Debtors* that are uſed favourably, and thoſe that have been amended by the *Priſon-Workhouſe*, and are ready to be manumitted, will not be unwilling to uſe the ſame means on others, for *Their Amendment*; which is not *Hardheartedneſs*, but *True Charity*.

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